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#### CHAPTER REFERRED TO IN OTHER SECTIONS

This chapter is referred to in title 41 section 421.

#### SUBCHAPTER I—GENERAL PROVISIONS

##### § 2451. Congressional declaration of policy and purpose

##### (a) Devotion of space activities to peaceful purposes for benefit of all mankind

The Congress declares that it is the policy of the United States that activities in space should be devoted to peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind.

##### (b) Aeronautical and space activities for welfare and security of United States; control by civilian agency; exceptions

The Congress declares that the general welfare and security of the United States require that adequate provision be made for aeronautical and space activities. The Congress further declares that such activities shall be the responsibility of, and shall be directed by, a civilian agency exercising control over aeronautical and space activities sponsored by the United States, except that activities peculiar to or primarily associated with the development of weapons systems, military operations, or the defense of the United States (including the research and development necessary to make effective provision for the defense of the United States) shall be the responsibility of, and shall be directed by, the Department of Defense; and that determination as to which such agency has responsibility for and direction of any such activity shall be made by the President in conformity with section 2471(e) of this title.

##### (c) Commercial use of space

The Congress declares that the general welfare of the United States requires that the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (as established by subchapter II of this chapter) seek and encourage, to the maximum extent possible, the fullest commercial use of space.

##### (d) Objectives of aeronautical and space activities

The aeronautical and space activities of the United States shall be conducted so as to contribute materially to one or more of the following objectives:

- (1) The expansion of human knowledge of the Earth and of phenomena in the atmosphere and space;
- (2) The improvement of the usefulness, performance, speed, safety, and efficiency of aeronautical and space vehicles;
- (3) The development and operation of vehicles capable of carrying instruments, equipment, supplies, and living organisms through space;
- (4) The establishment of long-range studies of the potential benefits to be gained from, the opportunities for, and the problems involved in the utilization of aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes;
- (5) The preservation of the role of the United States as a leader in aeronautical and space science and technology and in the application thereof to the conduct of peaceful activities within and outside the atmosphere;
- (6) The making available to agencies directly concerned with national defense of dis-